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EXAMINER

JOHNSON, VICKY A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3682

DATE MAILED: 04/03/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/001,324

Applicant(s)

ICHIDA, TADASHI

Examiner

Vicky A. Johnson

Art Unit

3682

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 9, 13-28, 30 and 34-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8, 10-12, 29 and 31-33 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 July 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

2. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it exceeds 150 words.

Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 9 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

It is unclear how the first command signal and the second command signal can occur simultaneously and the first command signal can occur prior to the second command signal.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by (US 5,213,548).

Colbert et al show a speed sensor (56) operatively coupled to a speed communication path (col. 6 lines 14-28); and an automatic shift control unit operatively coupled to the speed communication path and to the shift command communication path for automatically generating shift commands based on information received from the speed sensor (col. 2 lines 24-29).

Re claim 15, Colbert et al show the automatic shift control unit generates shift commands based on bicycle speed (col. 3 lines 1-6).

Re claim 16, Colbert et al show the automatic shift control unit generates shift commands based on bicycle acceleration (col. 8 line 60 – col. 9 line 8).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 1-7, 13, 18, 20-28 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ethington (US 5,681,234) in view of Darby (US 4,412,828).

Ethington discloses an apparatus for controlling a first bicycle transmission and a second bicycle transmission which, in combination, sets a speed stage of the bicycle, comprising: a transmission position communication path for communicating information indicating the operational position of the first transmission and the second transmission (col. 9 lines 1-25); a transmission command communication path for communicating information for controlling the operation of the first transmission and the second transmission (col. 8 lines 1-12); a shift command communication path for communicating shift commands to select a speed stage of the bicycle (col. 11 lines 31-37); a transmission control unit (72) operatively coupled to the shift command communication path, to the transmission position communication path and to the transmission command communication path for receiving the shift commands and the information indicating the operational position of the first transmission and the second transmission and for generating the information for controlling the operation of the first transmission and the second transmission (col. 9 line 1 – col. 10 line 66).

Ethington does not disclose that the transmission control unit receives at least one shift command requesting a shift through N speed stages to a destination speed stage, where N is an integer greater than one, the transmission control unit generates information for causing the first transmission and the second transmission in combination to move a total of M times to reach the destination speed stage, where M is an integer less than N.

Darby discloses a shift through N speed stages to a destination speed stage (col. 10 line 36 – col. 11 line 23), where N is an integer greater than one, for causing the first transmission and the second transmission in combination to move a total of M times to reach the destination speed stage, where M is an integer less than N (The example given is a change from 9th gear to 2nd gear; N=7 and M=3).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the apparatus of Ethington to include a shift through N speed stages to a destination speed, for causing the first and second transmission to move a total of M times to reach the destination speed as taught by Darby in order to provide the fastest possible shift between any two gears (col. 2 lines 3-11).

Re claims 2 and 23, Ethington shows the information for controlling the operation of the first transmission and the second transmission comprises a first signal for operating a front derailleur and a second signal for operating a rear derailleur (col. 10 lines 15-19).

Re claim 3 and 24, Ethington shows the transmission control unit comprises a table memory for storing a table containing the information for controlling the operation of the first transmission and the second transmission (col. 9 lines 37-49).

Re claims 4 and 25, Darby shows the first transmission moves to X first transmission positions, wherein the second transmission moves to Y second transmission positions, wherein X and Y both are integers greater than 1 (col. 10 line 36 – col. 11 line 23), and Ethington shows the table memory contains information for controlling the operation of at least one of the first transmission and the second

transmission for each X first transmission position and for each Y second transmission position (col. 9 lines 37-49).

Re claims 5 and 26, Ethington shows the table memory contains information for moving only one of the first transmission and the second transmission by only one of the corresponding first transmission positions and second transmission positions to reach the destination speed stage in response to a shift command requesting a shift through N speed stages to reach the destination speed stage (col. 24 line 48 – col.25 line 44).

Re claims 6 and 27, Ethington shows the table memory contains information for controlling the operation of at least one of the first transmission and the second transmission for shift commands requesting a shift through a single speed stage and for shift commands requesting a shift through N speed stages (col. 24 line 48 – col.25 line 44).

Re claims 7 and 28, Ethington shows the table memory contains information for maintaining both the first transmission and the second transmission stationary in response to a shift command requesting a shift through N speed stages to reach the destination speed stage (col. 24 line 48 – col.25 line 44).

Re claims 13 and 34, Ethington shows a manually operated shift control unit operatively coupled to the shift command communication path (col. 7 lines 13-49).

Re claim 18 Ethington shows a manually-operated shift control unit operatively coupled to the shift command communication path (col. 7 lines 13-49); a speed sensor (82) operatively coupled to a speed communication path (col. 8 lines 13-22); and an

automatic shift control unit operatively coupled to the speed communication path and to the shift command communication path for automatically generating shift commands based on information received from the speed sensor (col. 7 line 50 – col. 8 line 32).

Re claim 20, Ethington shows a plurality of front sprockets (24); a front derailleur (36) for moving a chain among the plurality of front sprockets; a front derailleur motor (48) for moving the front derailleur; a plurality of rear sprockets (34); a rear derailleur (38) for moving the chain among the plurality of rear sprockets; a rear derailleur motor (54) for moving the rear derailleur; a front derailleur position sensor (134) for providing a signal indicating a front sprocket position of the front derailleur; a rear derailleur position sensor (134') for providing a signal indicating a rear sprocket position of the rear derailleur; wherein the front sprocket position of the front derailleur and the rear sprocket position of the rear derailleur set a speed stage of the bicycle transmission (col. 10 line 33 – col. 11 line 29); a transmission position communication path operatively coupled to the front derailleur position sensor and to the rear derailleur position sensor for communicating the signals indicating the front sprocket position and the rear sprocket position (col. 10 line 33 – col. 11 line 29); a transmission command communication path operatively coupled to the front derailleur motor and to the rear derailleur motor for communicating information for controlling the operation of the front derailleur motor and the rear derailleur motor (col. 8 lines 1-12); a shift command communication path for receiving shift commands to set a desired speed stage (col. 11 lines 31-37); a transmission control unit (72) operatively coupled to the shift command communication path, to the transmission position communication path and to the

transmission command communication path for receiving the shift commands and the signals indicating the front sprocket position and the rear sprocket position and for generating the information for controlling the operation of the front derailleur motor and the rear derailleur motor (col. 9 line 1 – col. 10 line 66); and Darby shows and renders obvious the transmission control unit receives at least one shift command requesting a shift through N speed stages to a destination speed stage, where N is an integer greater than one, the transmission control unit generates information for causing the front derailleur and the rear derailleur in combination to move a total of M sprocket positions to reach the destination speed stage, where M is an integer less than N (col. 10 line 36 – col. 11 line 23).

Re claim 21, Ethington shows a change of gear ratio when the front derailleur moves from a first front sprocket to a second front sprocket is approximately equal to twice a change of gear ratio when the rear derailleur moves from a first rear sprocket to a second rear sprocket (see Table III; from A-1 to B-1 = .43; from A-1 to A-2 = .24).

Re claim 22, Ethington shows a method for controlling a first bicycle transmission and a second bicycle transmission which, in combination, sets a speed stage of the bicycle, comprising the steps of: receiving, by a transmission control unit, information indicating the operational position of the first transmission and the second transmission (col. 10 line 33 – col. 11 line 29); and generating, by the transmission control unit, information for causing the first transmission and the second transmission in combination to move (col. 9 line 1 – col. 10 line 66) a total of M times to reach the destination speed stage; and Darby shows and renders obvious receiving, by the

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transmission control unit, at least one shift command requesting a shift through N speed stages to a destination speed stage, wherein N is an integer greater than one (col. 10 line 36 – col. 11 line 23).

9. Claims 35-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ethington (US 5,681,234) in view of Darby (US 4,412,828) as applied to claims 1-7, 13, 18, 20-28 and 34 and further in view of Colbert et al (US 5,213,548).

Ethington shows a control unit as described above, but does not disclose a speed sensor operatively coupled to a speed communication path.

Colbert et al show receiving, by an automatic shift command unit, information from a speed sensor (56); and automatically generating shift commands based on information received from the speed sensor (col. 2 lines 24-29).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the control unit of Ethington to include a speed sensor as taught by Colbert et al in order to improve efficiency (col. 3 lines 24-28).

Re claim 36, Colbert et al show the automatic shift control unit generates shift commands based on bicycle speed (col. 3 lines 1-6).

Re claim 37, Colbert et al show the automatic shift control unit generates shift commands based on bicycle acceleration (col. 8 line 60 – col. 9 line 8).

10. Claims 17, 19 and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ethington (US 5,681,234) in view of Darby (US 4,412,828) as applied to claims 1-7, 13, 18, 20-28 and 34 above, and further in view of Spencer et al (US 6,047,230).

Ethington discloses the control unit as described above, but does not disclose a cadence sensor operatively coupled to a cadence communication path; and an automatic shift control unit operatively coupled to the cadence communication path and to the shift command communication path for automatically generating shift commands based on information received from the cadence sensor.

Spencer et al shows a cadence sensor (24) operatively coupled to a cadence communication path (col. 6 lines 6-12); and an automatic shift control unit (21) operatively coupled to the cadence communication path and to the shift command communication path for automatically generating shift commands based on information received from the cadence sensor (col. 6 line 66 – col. 7 line 8).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the automatic control unit of Ethington to include a cadence sensor as taught by Spencer et al in order to increase efficiency and safety (col. 2 lines 1-7).

Re claim 19, Ethington shows a manually-operated shift control unit operatively coupled to the shift command communication path (col. 7 lines 13-49); and Spencer et al show and render obvious a cadence sensor (24) operatively coupled to a cadence communication path (col. 6 lines 6-12); and an automatic shift control unit operatively coupled to the cadence communication path and to the shift command communication path for automatically generating shift commands based on information received from the cadence sensor (col. 6 line 66 – col. 7 line 8).

Allowable Subject Matter

11. Claims 8, 10-12, 29 and 31-33 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

12. Claims 9 and 30 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

13. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

6,367,833	Horiuchi	(time interval between shifts)
6,146,297	Kimura	(speed sensor)
5,266,065	Restelli	(speed sensor)
2002/0103052	Mercat et al	(transmission ratio)
2002/0094906	Jordan	(automatic transmission)

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vicky A. Johnson whose telephone number is (703) 305-3013. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday (7:00a-5:00p).


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A. Bucci can be reached on (703) 308-3668. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-7687 for regular communications and (703) 305-7687 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

vaj *188*
3/31/03
March 31, 2003


Thomas R. Hannon
Primary Examiner